

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1118

Tuesday, the 3rd August 1943.
8th Karkadagam 1118.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (A.F.W. DIXON Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair:

Messrs. L. M. Pylee, C. V. Iyyu, T. P. Poullose, K. T. Achyutan, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait and Walmesley were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COTTON GOODS—PRICES—CONTROL OF

69. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they are aware of the very high price of the cotton piece goods in the market;

(b) have Government any idea of standardizing any kind of cloth at a fair price; if so what steps have till now been taken or proposed to be taken?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): (a) Yes.

(b) Arrangements are being made to purchase and distribute cloth manufactured by the Handloom weavers of the State and also the standard cloth that will be supplied by the Government of India under the Standard Cloth Scheme. Standard cloth will be sold in the Fair Price Shops at panel price.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): May I know whether the Mills in our State can be asked to manufacture standard cloth?

Mr. President: I will give the answer. We have made arrangements with the Government of India for the manufacture of standard cloth for our use but they had already given orders to the Sitharam Mills to manufacture standard cloth for British India. The order had already been given. They have promised to make arrangements with the Sitharam Mills for the manufacture of our standard cloth in future. Before the Government of India sanctioned our quota we applied. But there was considerable delay. So far as I can say in every case they try to arrange for the local mills to supply.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (*Nominated*): May I know from where are you getting the present quota.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): From Bombay.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (*Nominated*): Have the Government taken troubles to ascertain whether the materials suit our needs?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The samples have been sent over here.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Is there different kinds of cloth for shirting and dothi?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The only difference is in width. One is 44" to 49". The other is 32".

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): For women is there any special cloth?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): No. It is uniform.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (*Trichur-North*): What is the count of the yarn used?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Twenties and Forties.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): What will be the probable price for a yard?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): It has to be worked out.

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Twenties cost Rs. 16 to Rs. 20 for a piece and the Forties cost Rs. 20-6-0 to Rs. 22-11-0 for 38 yards.

Mr. K. J. Thomas (*Latin Christians-Cranganore*): Is it coloured or white.

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Grey.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (Nominated): Have the Government got discretion to select from the samples or are we compelled to take what is supplied?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies): They sent us the samples of various sizes. We select the thing most suitable to us.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (Nominated): Am I to take it that the Government of India is going to supply us with cloth according to the samples selected by us?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies): Yes?

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Before selection has it been shown to anybody?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): The Director of Industries has been consulted and he is in touch with the local weavers and the opinion of the consumers has been ascertained.

70. Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have received representations from handloom weavers about the scarcity of yarn and the unconscionable profits made by the yarn dealers;

(b) have the Government taken any steps to relieve them;

(c) if answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what they are?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have arranged with the two spinning mills in the State to obtain 85 bales of yarn per month at panel prices and distribute them to the weavers through the Cochin Cottage Industries Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd. The distribution of the yarn by the society on certain specific conditions has only just begun and response from the weavers is being watched. The society proposed to distribute yarn to the weavers for cash and purchase the production from them. The production will be sold to the public through recognised co-operative societies or Government Fair Price Shops.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): Whether there is any quota proposed by the Government may I know?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies): Yes. $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards per head for an adult and half of it for a child (person below 13).

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (Chittur-Rural): Are the weavers of Chittur to be expected to come to Trichur to get the yarn?

Mr. T. K. Nayar (Minister for Rural Development): Arrangements have been made to distribute the yarns through the Kunnathupalayam Co-operative Society and my information is that the Secretary has already taken some bales.

71. Mr. B. M. Peter (Latin Christians-Mattancheri): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) has the Government made any arrangements to get standard cloths for the State from the Government of India;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when can we expect the arrival of the first consignment for the State and its distribution begins;

(c) what will the total quota fixed for our State by the Government of India per year;

(d) how many yards of standard cloths will be given to an ordinary lay man per year;

(e) what will be the minimum quantity required for an ordinary lay man per year?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government):

(a) Yes.

(b) It is expected that the first consignment would be despatched by the Mills in the last week of July. Despatch instructions have already been issued to the Mills by the Textiles Commissioner. As soon as the stock is received distribution would begin.

(c) The quota fixed for the State for May, June and July is 4,64,845 yards and for August 1943 to January 1944 is 3.1 million yards. There is no information regarding the quota for the remaining part of the year.

(d) It is proposed to give 3 yards of cloth to an adult, i.e., above 13 years and 1.5 yards to a child, i.e., below 13 years.

(e) It is not possible to estimate the minimum quantity required for an ordinary lay man as this depends upon various factors, such as ability to purchase, custom, fashion, town life or country life, etc.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (Chittur-Rural): Is there any difference for women?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): No difference. The whole thing will be measured and distributed according to the number of members in a family and it will be issued as one piece.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): What is the quantity that the Government is going to fix for women. How many yards are required for one mundoo?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The quota for women is the same as for men.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): There are variations in the customs of the country.

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): When it is issued in a piece it will be convenient to cut it according to the needs.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): That is true. But what I am asking is whether there is any difference in the quota for women?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): The standard is fixed considering the quota that we have received. If there is a larger quota we will get an increased rate.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Suppose there are 12 members in a family, 6 women, 3 boys and 3 men. The boys and the men must get their mundoo. These 6 women, what will they get?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): We can distribute only according to what we receive.

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): It may not be possible to meet the entire needs.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): These women require at least 6 yards for a sari and four yards for a mundoo. Representation must be made in this behalf.

Mr. President: This distribution is meant primarily for the poor.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Is this three yards for a month or a year?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): For the first half year. After 6 months we will get another quota.

Mr. B. M. Peter (*Latin Christians-Mattancheri*): What is the minimum quantity required for our State?

Mr. M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): I am sorry I have not got the figures.

STAFF SELECTION BOARD—RULES REGARDING

72. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon (*Cheruthuruthi*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) when the Staff Selection Board was started;
- (b) what was the number of applications received during that year;
- (c) if all those applicants have been entertained in service;
- (d) when any vacancy occurs do the Board go into the back applicants' list and give them preference over new applicants?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) On first Kanni 1112.

(b) 2,764.

(c) No.

(d) The Board is guided by the rules framed by Government for its functioning. Copy of the rules is placed on the table.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know, Sir, whether all the rules laid down here in the rules placed on the table are strictly and scrupulously observed in the selection of candidates?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. They are.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know, Sir, whether the directions given in paragraph 4 of the rules, viz., for this purpose the Board will be at liberty to summon candidates for personal interviews and to conduct if necessary a *viva voce* examination for the purpose of testing the general knowledge and efficiency of the candidate, are followed?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): That is not generally done. It is not compulsory.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know, why that is not being done.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): It is not necessary on the part of the Staff Selection Board. We have no objection to do it. But the work will be increased. That

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